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SUBJ: VX RELOCATED TO STORAGE AREA.

NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT, Ind. -- The commander at Newport Chemical Depot said today that an operation to relocate 20 gallons of chemical agent recovered from the former VX production plant has been safely completed.

Lt. Col. Scott D. Kimmell said a small metal sealed tank containing the liquid was recovered during ongoing operations to dismantle the former VX production facility. "The tank was part of the VX manufacturing process," Kimmell said. He emphasized that there was no release of vapor to the environment, and the dismantling project was in an area that always has been secure.

The agent was transferred from the tank into an approved storage container. Liquid samples verified Saturday that the liquid was VX.

Workers today relocated the container of agent to the VX storage area.

"We have plans in place for situations such as this," Kimmell said. "Additionally, our workers are highly-trained and used every precaution to ensure safety to our workers, the public and the environment."

The dismantling project began in 1998 and is expected to be completed in 2007, as required under the terms of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The project is part of the Army's Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Program.